

Singapore

Man accused of molesting 2 maids in 2 months

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Father of 3 denies second charge; no plea asked yet on first charge

A 50-YEAR-OLD father of three is accused of molesting two of his family's maids within a period of about two months.

Veloo Ganesan allegedly grabbed the breast of the first maid, a 27-year-old Indian national, at his Choa Chu Kang home in December 2004.

The second maid, a 32-year-old married woman, said Ganesan hugged and rubbed himself against her just three days after she started work.

She also told the court yesterday she decided to lodge a police complaint against Ganesan after he refused to give her a transfer and wanted to send her home to India.

Ganesan, unemployed at the time of the alleged offences, has denied molesting the second maid at his maisonette in Choa Chua Kang North 5 on Jan 20 last year. He has not yet been asked to plead on the charge of grabbing the breast of the first maid.

The second maid testified that her agent, Ms Selvarani Palanivel, took her to Ganesan's home in January last year. On that visit, she heard Ms Palanivel warn Ganesan not to behave towards the new maid in the same manner as he did to the previous one.

Ms Palanivel told Ganesan the new maid was experienced, having worked here for six years, and knew 'everything'. The maid told the court she had no idea what Ms Palanivel's comment meant.

She told District Judge Tan Boon Gin she had disliked the way Ganesan talked, looked and moved towards her.

She said on the second day of her employment, while she was moving a mattress in a room, Ganesan came very close and rubbed himself against her, saying he wanted to help. She refused his offer.

Around 2.30am, Ganesan walked into the living room where she was asleep and switched on the fan. She told him she felt cold and did not need it.

Frightened, she got up and went to the toilet where she remained for about 10 minutes.

That evening, she telephoned her parents in India and complained about Ganesan. They promised to inform the agent.

On the third day, she said she had just started cooking at about 10am when Ganesan, who was home with his youngest child, came up behind her. He raised his hand as if reaching for something and his chest came into contact with her back, she said.

He then went to the living room for a while. When he returned, he placed his arms around her waist and hugged her tightly.

She pushed his hands away.

'I did not like it at all,' she said. 'He did it intentionally. If he had no bad intention, he should have asked me to move away before trying to take what he wanted to take.'

She felt very insulted and told him to behave.

Later that day, while taking the youngest child to school, she called her husband in India and told him to find her another employer or she would jump from the high-rise building.

Later, the agent called Ganesan and also spoke to the maid to find out the problem.

The complainant neither told the agent about her problems nor informed Ganesan's wife, Susila, what he had done as she did not want to cause difficulties to the family.

Later, Ganesan drank alcohol and swore at her, calling her a prostitute.

The maid said the couple asked her to sign a letter in English before they would let her go. The court was not informed of the contents of the letter.

Ganesan then threw her bag outside and pushed her out of the flat. His wife gave her the agent's address and she took a cab there.

Two days later, she said she met Ganesan and his family at the Ministry of Manpower. When Ganesan refused to give her a transfer and wanted to send her back immediately to India, she told him she would make a complaint against him as she did not want him to get off scot-free. The court was not told why they were at the ministry.

The hearing continues.

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